

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of the Regular Board of Police Commissioners Meeting Thursday, February 10, 2005

The regular meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners was held on Thursday, February 10, 2005, at 6:30 p.m., at the Roberto Clemente Center, 2631 Bagley, Detroit, Michigan 48216.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Arthur Blackwell, II **(ABS)**
Erminia Ramirez
Jim Holley
Megan Norris
Willie Hampton **(ABS)**

Department Personnel Present

AC Walter Shoulders
DC Gary Christian
DC Ronald Haddad
Cmdr. John Mlynarczyk
Insp. Laura Isom
Insp. Claudia Barden-Jackson
Lt. Cordd
Lt. Candace Kailimai
Lt. Roosevelt Lawrence
Lt. Raymond Nolan
Sgt. Dixon
Sgt. Carey
PO Malika Nixon
PO Griffin

Board Staff Present

Dante' L. Goss, Executive Director **(ABS)**
E. Lynise Bryant-Weekes, Personnel Director
Denise R. Hooks, Attorney/Supervising Inv.
Arnold Sheard, Interim Chief Investigator
Ainsley Cromwell, Supervising Investigator
Victoria Scott-Miller, Sr. Investigator/Community Affairs Coordinator
Leonard Hall, Investigator
Kent Cooper, Police Officer

OTHERS PRESENT

Ron Scott
Gloria Canales
Billy Hickey
Linda Gonzalez
Fred Feliziano
Gloria Rocha
S. Turner-Hardy

Theresa Zajac
Josephine Smith
Alycia Meriweather
Eva Garza Dewaelsche
Alicia Villarreal
Alex Romero
Felipe Martinez

Elisa Cullen
Linda Gonzalez
Tawana Morris
Linda Hier

RECORDERS

Jerome Adams

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairperson Ramirez called the regular meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners to order at 6:45 p.m.

The Presentation of Colors was given by the Law Enforcement Explorers.

Comm. Holley read the duties and responsibilities of the Board of Police Commissioners?

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

♦ Thursday, February 3, 2005

MOTION: **Comm. Norris** made the motion to approve the above Minutes.

SECOND: **Comm. Holley** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

3. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

RESOLUTION HONORING MR. KEVIN DAVIS

WHEREAS Mr. Kevin Davis is a resident and community leader in the city of Detroit; and

WHEREAS Mr. Davis is the President of the Southwest Detroit Community Recreation League. This non-profit organization has serviced over 1,500 youth, age 5 through 17; and

WHEREAS Mr. Davis volunteers countless hours ensuring that the recreational activities, such as basketball, tee ball, soccer, flag football, jazz dance, tennis and volleyball occur throughout the year. He also dedicates time mentoring, coaching and providing out reach support to youth and their families; and

WHEREAS Mr. Davis was instrumental in coordinating the "Be a Detroit Piston for a Day program". Each participant was transported to a Piston's Basketball game and received autographs from the Pistons; and

WHEREAS Mr. Davis in addition to all the aforementioned activities, finds time to participate in the Business United With Officers and Youth Organization,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking for the citizens of the City of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department, acknowledges the generous spirit of Mr. Davis. His unselfishness and dedication to improving the quality of life for all citizens in his community and throughout the city of Detroit, merits our highest regards.

We thank and congratulate you, Mr. Kevin Davis.

DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

/s/Arthur Blackwell
Chairperson

/s/Erminia Ramirez
Vice Chairperson

/s/ Megan P. Norris
Commissioner

/s/Jim Holley
Commissioner

/s/Willie Hampton
Commissioner

MOTION: **Comm. Norris** made the motion to adopt the Resolution.

SECOND: **Comm. Holley** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

AC Shoulders presented Mr. Davis with a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of Chief Bully-Cummings and the department. He also presented Mr. Davis with the Spirit of Detroit Award on behalf of City Council.

Mr. Davis thanked everyone.

**RESOLUTION HONORING
MR. THOMAS L. WILLIAMS**

WHEREAS Mr. Thomas L. Williams has been a resident and community leader in the city of Detroit for 58 years; and

WHEREAS Mr. Williams is an active member of the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ). He works diligently to foster a positive relationship between the community and the Detroit Police Department; and

WHEREAS Mr. Williams has been an active member of the Original Citizens of Southwest Detroit for over 37 years; and

WHEREAS Mr. Williams graduated from the Detroit Police Department Academy two years ago; and

WHEREAS Mr. Williams in addition to all the aforementioned activities, finds time to participate in Third Precinct Community Relations, National Night Out, Motor City Makeover, and he is a volunteer at a Third Precinct Mini- Station,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking for the citizens of the City of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department, acknowledges the generous spirit of Mr. Williams. His unselfishness and dedication to improving the quality of life for all citizens in his community and throughout the city of Detroit, merits our highest regards.

We thank and congratulate you, Mr. Thomas L. Williams.

DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

/s/Arthur Blackwell
Chairperson

/s/Erminia Ramirez
Vice Chairperson

/s/ Megan P. Norris
Commissioner

/s/Jim Holley
Commissioner

/s/Willie Hampton
Commissioner

MOTION: **Comm. Holley** made the motion to adopt the Resolution.

SECOND: **Comm. Norris** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

AC Shoulders presented Mr. Davis with a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of Chief Bully-Cummings and the department. He also presented Mr. Davis with the Spirit of Detroit Award on behalf of City Council.

Mr. Davis thanked everyone.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT – ATTY. HOOKS

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
2005 - Weekly Count of Complaints:	24	112
2004 - Weekly Count of Complaints:	20	120

- The Office of the Chief Investigator (OCI) closed a total of **50** cases this week.
- The Office of the Chief Investigator submitted **0** cases to the Chief's Office. The Chief's Office has reviewed and returned **61** cases to OCI.

Atty. Hooks stated that the Office of the Chief Investigator (OCI) will be making a presentation today. The OCI handles citizen complaints that are filed against police officers.

5. REPORT/PRESENTATION – CHIEF OF POLICE

DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

**REPORT TO THE
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

Vision Statement

BUILDING A SAFER DETROIT THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS.

The Detroit Police Department is committed to uphold its mission to provide a safe environment for our residents and businesses. This effort is not possible without the joint commitment of the community and the Police Department. We appreciate and value the role our citizens have played in helping us to take guns and drugs off the streets of the city of Detroit.

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

During the period of February 2nd – 8th, the *Narcotics Enforcement and Conspiracy Units* conducted 33 search warrants and 36 street enforcement actions within the boundaries of the city of Detroit, resulting in the following arrests and confiscations:

- ◆ 33 Felony arrests
- ◆ 128 Misdemeanor arrests
- ◆ 1 Juvenile detained
- ◆ 113.3 Grams of cocaine, 30.2 grams of heroin, 20,286 pills and 657.10 grams of marijuana - street value **\$305,168.00**
- ◆ **\$24,305.00 U.S.** currency

Confiscated:

- ◆ 6 Handguns

The Vice Unit

During the period of February 2nd– 8th, officers of the Vice Unit conducted an “Offer to Engage” operation within the boundaries of the 6th Precinct. As a result of their efforts, the following arrests and confiscations were made:

- ◆ 6 arrested for “Offer to Engage”

Confiscated:

- ◆ 6 Vehicles

Gang Enforcement Section

On February 4th, officers of the Gang Enforcement Section responded to the area of Evergreen and Trojan (Henry Ford High School) on "Gang Fight in Progress during School Hours" run. Subsequent to an investigation, and as a result of their quick response, the following detentions and confiscations were made:

- ♦ 12 Juveniles detained for "Minor Unlawfully in a Public Place/Street during School Hours"
- ♦ 1 Juvenile detained for "Carrying Concealed Weapon-Person"
- ♦ 1 Juvenile detained for "Violation of School Ordinance"

Confiscated:

- ♦ 1 Gas powered pellet gun

Police/Community Intervention



TAKING THE GUNS OFF THE STREET !



Total Guns Confiscated
Year-To-Date
330

FIRST PRECINCT

On February 5th officers of the 1st Precinct while on patrol in the area of Brush and Macomb observed a man running south on Brush wearing a ski mask and carrying a handgun. A second man was chasing him with a small handgun. Further investigation resulted in the man wearing a ski mask being arrested for "Armed Robbery," "Felonious Assault" and "Habitual 4th." Recovered was \$250 stolen U.S. currency. Confiscated was one (1) Facsimile handgun.

THIRD PRECINCT

On February 1st, officers from the 3rd Precinct responded to the 1800 block of Electric on a "Home Invasion Just Happened" run. As a result of combined efforts between the Third Precinct, the Narcotics Special Enforcement Section and the South Plainfield (New Jersey) Police Department, a wanted man was arrested for "Kidnapping," "Home Invasion," "Criminal Sexual Conduct" and "Assault with Intent to Commit Criminal Sexual Conduct".

FIFTH PRECINCT

On February 5th, officers of the 5th Precinct were investigating a robbery that occurred at a business in the 5th Precinct on December 24, 2004. The officers canvassed the 4600 block of Cope. As a result of their efforts and diligent search of the area, the wanted man was located. He was arrested without incident for "Armed Robbery."

TENTH PRECINCT

Due to a recent breaking and entering of Winterhalter Middle School, on February 4th, a Detroit Public School Officer and officers of the 10th Precinct executed a search warrant in the 12000 block of Monica. One (1) man was arrested for "Receiving and Concealing Stolen Property Over \$1,000.00," "Larceny in a Building" and "Habitual 2nd." Recovered were Detroit Board of Education computers, printers, monitors, and other miscellaneous items with the Detroit Board of Education bar code on them.

THIRTEENTH PRECINCT

On February 2nd, officers of the 13th Precinct while on patrol in the area of John R and Kirby investigated a man for breaking into a parked vehicle. As a result of their investigation, the man was arrested for "Breaking and Entering a Motor Vehicle," "Receiving and Concealing Stolen Property" and "Habitual 2nd." Recovered was a stolen coat and \$4,000.00 worth of camera equipment.

Chief of Police Ella M. Bully-Cummings

6. PRESENTATION – THIRD PRECINCT

Cmdr. Mlynarczyk gave the following presentation:

The Third Precinct, located at 2801 West Vernor, is bordered by The Detroit River on the south, Outer Drive on the west, West Warren on the north and 14th on the east. The precinct also shares borders with the suburban cities of Melvindale, River Rouge, Lincoln Park, Dearborn and Ecorse. The precinct is approximately 32 miles in perimeter and has approximately 90,000 residents. Additionally, approximately 60,000 people use the Ambassador Bridge daily.

There are 40 schools, 97 churches and approximately 400 businesses within our boundaries. There are also two operational mini-stations within our precinct boundaries.

Staffing of the precinct includes one commander, one inspector, (5) five lieutenants, (19) nineteen sergeants, (132) one hundred thirty two police officers and (8) eight civilians for a total of (144) one hundred sixty six members of the Third Precinct.

In addition to normal day to day patrol and investigative functions, the Third Precinct has deployed officers in the following precinct initiatives to help reduce crime, which include:

- Daily environmental and abandoned vehicle enforcement.
- Weekly plans of action, which identify problem areas in the precinct, then implement plans to solve the problems.
- Deploying specifically dedicated officers to all non-fatal shooting incidents. Up until the end of 2004, the Third Precinct had 22% of all non-fatal shootings on the Westside of Detroit. To date, we have had 7 non-fatal shootings; 5 of which are closed cases and the remaining cases which involves an uncooperative complainant; one known subject.
- Meeting with the Chief's of Police of our bordering cities to discuss crimes which occur on our borders and joint ventures of combating these crimes.

The Third Precinct will also conduct crime reduction initiatives such as Project Joshua. Officers will work with the Investigative Operations Unit and the Attorney General's Office, to close gun assaults and non fatal shootings.

The Attorney General's Office will also work with the Department of Corrections to conduct checks on parolee's and probations to see if anyone has violated their terms of parole or probation.

The precinct will continue to advance our crime fighting initiatives with personnel provided by Homeland Security Units (when available). These units will be deployed in the highest crime areas as well as areas where citizen complaints are the highest. From January 10-23, 2005 personnel working Homeland Security details in the Third Precinct produced the following statistics:

Arrests

Felony: 27

Misdemeanor: 85

Juveniles Detained

Felony: 0

Misdemeanor: 10

Curfew: 27

MUIPP: 0

Investigations

Vehicles: 722

Persons: 870

Tickets

Movers: 1144

Parking: 11

Miscellaneous Ords: 37

The Southwest Detroit Community-Law Enforcement Engagement Initiative is a program supported by The National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ). It brings Southwest Detroit residents, law enforcement officers (State Police, Border Patrol, as well as the Detroit Police Department) and community leaders together to engage in dialogue and action. Goals of this organization are as follows:

- Community and law enforcement working together to enhance the quality of life in Southwest Detroit.
 - Build relationships of trust, mutual respect and accountability between community and law enforcement through continuous dialogue and collaboration.
 - Improve mutual understanding of personal perspectives and professional roles through law enforcement education for the community and training (diversity and other types) for law enforcement.
 - Equip law enforcement with sufficient human and technical resources to ensure police officer and community safety.
-
- Community and law enforcement working together to create programs for youth and a safe school environment.

The precinct also maintains a working relationship with the Southwest Sub-Zone Community Policing, which is funded through Empowerment Zone monies. SSCP has become our working partner at our mini station located at 7744 West Vernor, adjacent to the Neighborhood City Hall.

The Third Precinct is assisting SSCP to implement their recent grant award to help combat auto theft within the precinct boundaries. Some of the measurable objectives of the grant will be:

- Discuss auto theft awareness at Third Precinct community meetings
- Etched 1,000 vehicles
- Distribute 3,000 fliers on auto theft prevention
- Publish auto theft prevention articles in area newsletters
- Train five block clubs in Neighborhood Watch principles
- Some Third Precinct community activities are:
- The precinct gym being opened to youth organizations for basketball practice and games.
- B.O.U.Y. Center being used for classes such as computer training, arts and crafts, digital camera usage, woodshop, nutrition courses, stage production, hustle lessons, and Avon representative training. Explorers Program where officers of Community Relations mentor youth between the ages of 14 and 18. Youth participate in various exercises to promote discipline and good study habits, are taken on field trips, and perform community service.

Additionally, a Spanish-speaking Citizen Police Academy is scheduled to begin on February 7, 2005. Interested citizens will attend an eight-week program, which is designed to increase knowledge about the infrastructure of the department and how each section affects the community.

This aggressive approach to the prevention of criminal activity by members of the Third Precinct, community organizations, other law enforcement and government agencies, should serve as a deterrent to crime within our community.

Mr. Martinez stated he is the President of the Community Relations Group. He welcomed everyone to the Third Precinct's community meeting and thanked everyone for supporting their endeavors in the Third Precinct. He also introduced members of his staff.

7. PRESENTATION – OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

I.C.I. Sheard gave the following presentation:

(See Attachment)

Comm. Norris stated there are a number of things that used to not get investigated, but now must be investigated due to the consent decree. Some of the precincts had problems that ended up getting worked out and there would be no complaint. But, now there is still a complaint, it's not only resolved, but we have to investigate it to make sure that it is in fact. But it is still paperwork and time that is spent. There used to be a time when someone came in and made a complaint and then when we went to interview them, they

would say never mind, that is closed. Now, we can't accept never mind, they may not cooperate, but we still have to conduct an investigation. In addition, with the publicity campaign, which is very broad, has caused an increase in the number of complaints. Needless to say, there has not been any significant increase in our staff, which has really placed a tremendous burden on completing investigations in a certain frame that is required by the consent decree. I would also like to say that the staff has been doing terrific work.

Vice-Chairperson Ramirez asked has the Third Precinct received the citizen complaint brochures?

Cmdr. Mlynarczyk stated we just received our supply last week and we will pass them out to the officers early next week.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

9. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, February 17, 2005 @ 3:00 p.m.
Police Headquarters
1300 Beaubien, Rm. 328-A
Detroit, MI 48226

10. ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

Ron Scott voiced some concerns about several shootings that involved officers and citizens in the Sixth Precinct. At the last Board meeting, Comm. Blackwell indicated that he wants to form a Citizens Committee and that we will be meeting to talk about the parameters, etc. about the group. He also stated that if anyone is interested in joining the Citizens Committee to see him after the meeting.

Vice-Chairperson Ramirez asked when is your meeting?

Mr. Scott stated we have not set a meeting date and we haven't set the parameters.

Tawana Morris voiced her concerns regarding a senior citizen, whose son was shot by a Detroit Police Officer on February 4, 2005.

Linda Gonzalez stated she was born and raised in Southwest, Detroit and that she represents the Hispanic Block Provision.

Theresa Zajac stated she is from the Southwest Business Association. She also thanked Cmdr. Mlynarczyk for being supportive. She also passed out a handout out entitled, *"SW Detroit Community-Law Enforcement Initiative: Collaborative Principles, Goals and Affiliated Organizations."*

Alex Romero stated that he is the President of the Hispanic Police Officer Association. He spoke about the initiatives and goals of the association. He also stated that he would like to see Cmdr. Gomez return to the Third Precinct as being the highest ranking Hispanic officer. He voiced a concern that there is no Hispanic representation in Gang Squad. There also needs to be an increase of Hispanic officers in the recruiting stage.

Comm. Holley asked are you with the Sheriff's Department?

Mr. Romero stated yes, but I am on a leave of absence.

Comm. Holley stated you should apply for the Detroit Police Department.

Linda Hiera asked what is the policy when a citizen's injury results in death when a police officer causes an accident?

AC Shoulders stated not knowing the particulars of the situation, I cannot comment on the matter until the investigation is completed. This would rise to a legal issue, which is out of the police department's hands. The decision is made by the City's Law Department.

Comm. Norris stated I think what AC Shoulders is saying is that there is no policy specifically for the police department. The question is what the city does.

Comm. Holley asked Ms. Linda H. to speak with our Interim Chief Investigator after the meeting.

Elisa Cullen asked how many Hispanic officers are in the Third Precinct? How many Hispanic officers are in the whole city of Detroit?

Dir. Bryant-Weekes stated we have over 130 Hispanic officers and we have one (1) Hispanic commander. There are 16 officers assigned to the Third Precinct, who are fluent in speaking Spanish. We do have some Hispanic lieutenants and sergeants. I will have the rest of the information on the first day of the Citizens Academy. With respect to the assignments, all assignments at the precinct level are done by transfer requests and we cannot force Hispanic officers to work in the precincts, they have to put in

transfer requests, just like any other police officer in the department. And, based on their seniority, they would be assigned to this area to work. The city of Detroit offers Spanish classes to city employees and police officers.

Comm. Holley asked don't we work very hard to make sure that the police department reflects the city?

Dir. Bryant-Weekes stated yes.

Comm. Holley stated we also want to make sure that regardless to their race, creed or gender that they have the same equality in terms of upper mobility as the other police officers. He asked have we had any grievances to say that someone felt like there fair shake in terms of the police department?

Dir. Bryant-Weekes stated not that I am aware of. The promotional opportunities in the rank of sergeant and lieutenant are done by an examination and the officers are ranked by how well they do on the examination and seniority. When promotions are made, they are made off of that eligible register. So, there are no barriers to....

Comm. Holley asked based upon your representation here, are any efforts being made to recruit and to make sure that there is equalization here?

Dir. Bryant-Weekes stated yes. If you recall, recently when we did the "Hiring in the Spirit of Service Project," we also had one for our Hispanic officers. We are in the process of translating our current fliers into both Spanish and Arabic.

Vice-Chairperson Ramirez stated I would like for our Community Affairs Coordinator to speak with the President from the Hispanic Police Officer Association, Elisa Cullen and Lt. Roosevelt Lawrence from the Recruiting Unit, after the meeting to discuss ways that we could increase the presence of Hispanic police officers in the Third Precinct.

Comm. Norris asked do we give points for language fluency?

Dir. Bryant-Weekes stated no.

Alycia Meriweather stated she is here to represent the Hubbard Farms Community Organization. We are establishing a CB patrol to assist with our community's safety. She commended the Third Precinct for their quick response to several incidents that happened in the neighborhood. She voiced concerns that there is an increase in car vandalism, theft, gang graffiti, and gang activity.

Felipe Martinez stated the community brought the language barrier to light as a problem only, but offered feasible, short term solutions in the form of a translator that would be able to translate on the spot recognizing the current financial and political situations plaguing the city.

An officer in North Carolina was using this device in a pilot program; this was used as an example of this current technological support available to officers.

Grievances (citizen complaints) were not being turned in as stated by the respectful former Commissioner, due to the fear of the residents, who were afraid of coming forward and being identified by the department as non-legal residents to the Department of Homeland Security, this being INS.

The past was not being brought up as again the respectful former Commissioner had stated, but that we were here not to talk about the past, but to talk about the present situations, and the need to rebuild a relationship with the Department reached farther than just the language barrier, but that as a city there was a need to build the trust and confidence in the communities across this city. In closing, we (the Southwest Community) did not approach the Board of Commissioners with closed hands, but with open arms as a token of good faith regarding the issues that are affecting our community.

Comm. Holley stated the Board would like to work with the citizens about what we could do to improve the community.

Vice-Chairperson Ramirez (inaudible)

Eva Garza Dewaelsche stated as a former police commissioner, we heard a lot of this during the four years that I served on the Commission and it is the same stuff that has been said for years. We need more Hispanic officers. I have been concerned about the recruitment efforts. She also voiced a concern regarding the reasons why Hispanic officers transfer from the Third Precinct. She asked what is the plan of this department to move Hispanic officers up the ladder? How do people get promoted in the department above lieutenant?

Comm. Norris stated once we get beyond lieutenant, the promotions are discretionary to Chief, but this Board has approval authority.

(Tape is inaudible)

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DANTE' L. GOSS
Executive Director
Board of Police Commissioners

DLG/kdw